

JACOB BURLEY

RESEARCHER | PRESENTER | FILMMAKER

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Experienced researcher and science communicator with a background in palaeontology, zoology, theatre, and visual media. Seeking production roles in research and development with an emphasis on natural history and earth sciences.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Filmmaker & Presenter
(UWE, Freelance)
September 2021 - Present

Researched, produced, and presented *Bear Hunt* - a documentary exploring Britain's neolithic landscape and ecosystem, and how it evolved over time. Produced a comprehensive set of development and research documents, managed several multi-camera UK shoots with 2-4 crew members (whilst on-camera). Collated academic research from experts (Prof. Hannah O'Regan), used it to brief the animator and provide feedback on animations, ensuring their accuracy.

Writer & Comedian (Freelance)
October 2017 - Present

Writer and stand-up comic specialising in science communication for entertainment. Experience with routines from 5-60 minutes. Primary areas of interest are palaeontology, geology, ecology, and anthropology. Emphasis on communicating with experts and adapting scientific research into written pieces and spoken word to resonate with diverse audiences. My hour routine, *Bear Hunt*, was adapted into the film of the same name.

Runner (Doghouse Post Production)
February 2023 - Present

Covering role in a busy post-production house, completing domestic and administrative tasks to aid the successful running of three offices.

Host/Moderator (Wildscreen)
October 2022 - Present

Host events, filmmaker Q&A's and speaker panels on behalf of Wildscreen. As an interviewer, extensively researched the backgrounds and works of interviewees and adapted this research into open questions. Recent commissions include live (*Panteras* team; Jamie McPherson) and remote interviews (Dax Dasilva; Wendy Darke) with industry specialists and experts.

Researcher & Media Producer
(Slapstick Festival/Aardman)
January 2021 - Present

Researching, developing, and advising on popular events for the Slapstick Festival in Bristol. Coordinating with high-profile guests such as Sir Michael Palin. Production managing, filming, and editing live event content for the festival archive, as well as producing graphics and promotional material.

Editor (Jo Sarsby Management)
Autumn 2022 (NDA)

Produced high-quality showreels for top UK specialist factual talent for a leading television talent agency, on a short turnaround. Researched talent and liaised with the agency team to establish how best to represent each individual to potential employers, using archive material.

Researcher (Off The Fence)
Autumn 2022 (NDA)

Researching for potential film commissions for BBC The One Show VT's. Corresponding with potential contributors and locations, whilst producing narrative-oriented research documents and highly visual treatments. Production assisted for a presenter-led shoot in November 2022, TX in 2023.

Volunteer Coordinator (Wildscreen)
August - October 2022

Managed 60 volunteers, in a range of roles, for the world's largest natural world storytelling festival in October 2022. Operated as part of the core festival team, established good working relationships with speakers, alongside connecting with key individuals and industry members.

Shooting AP
([The Watchman](#)), ([Finally I Sea](#)),
([Bittersweet](#))
April - September 2022

Used Sony FS5 and Panasonic Lumix S1H to record 4K 25/50/100/200FPS footage on shoots for three productions, across the UK and Zimbabwe. Displayed willingness to operate a wide array of equipment and demonstrated an aptitude for learning on the job. Created backups and proxies of all footage and recordings on a day-to-day basis. Provided constructive editorial advice on location and in the edit.

Producer & Theatre Manager
(The Room Above Theatre)
2021 - Present

Part of the creative and leadership team behind an emerging black-box theatre and comedy club in Bristol. Role incorporates creative and company management. Supplement in-house productions as a writer, stage technician and performer. Excellent interpersonal skills used for partnership outreach and researching programme development, then producing briefings of findings for the team.

Comedy Promoter
(Bristol Improv Theatre/Bristol Improv)
2017 - 2020

Managed and administrated several successful events and festivals over three years, on behalf of both a local theatre and a partnered university society. Cultured excellent working atmosphere for a small, dedicated team.

EDUCATION

- 2021 - 2022 | **MA Wildlife Filmmaking**, University of the West of England. **Distinction.**
Produced *Bear Hunt*: about the existence and extinction of British bears and their ecosystem.
Trained in documentary camera operating, sound recording, editing, and narrative development.
Experience delivering quality production documents (budgets, risk assessments, schedules).
- 2018 - 2021 | **BSc Zoology**, University of Bristol (2:1). Completed **Bristol Plus Award**.
Specialised in ecosystem development and structure, alongside public science communication.
- 2017 - 2018 | **MSci Palaeontology & Evolution**, University of Bristol.
Modules covering geological principles, including sedimentology, earth history, and tectonics.
- 2015 - 2017 | A-Levels: **Geography (A*)**, **History (A)**, **Biology (B)**, **EPQ - Palaeontology (A)**, Garforth Academy Sixth Form.
- 2010 - 2015 | GCSEs: **10 A* - A**, Garforth Academy.

RELEVANT SKILLS

- Academic Research & Writing** Produced a paper: '*Comparisons Between Eocene Mammals and Modern Counterparts*' for an EPQ in Palaeontology, Geology, and Zoology.
Papers written as an undergraduate include:
'*Locomotion of Arthropleura using fossil trackways on Arran*' (2018).
'*The Effectiveness of Instagram for Public Science Communication*' (2021).
'*Reintroductions in rewilding: a danger, or an opportunity?*' (2021).
Researched and structured material for '*Rewilding Month*', a 28-part multimedia series produced via Instagram (2020).
- Creative Research & Writing** Completed the Jackson Wild Narration Writing Masterclass (2022).
Contributing writer for *The Independent*. Published pieces include:
 - [*Is The Natural History Documentary Bubble About To Burst?*](#)
 - [*'King Rocker' - Something Old, Something New: Review*](#)Devising and reviewing formats and scripts for groups and productions, including:
 - Radio/Podcasts: *Sound of Burley & Hall*, *Bream Radio*, *Butt & Oyster*.
 - Talks: Bristol Festival of Nature, Wildscreen, University of Bristol.
 - Theatre: *Bear Hunt*, *Hoops (Fringe 2018)*, *Offscript (Fringe 2019)*.
 - Comedy: *Got Legs*, *Prized Whale Productions*, *Revunions*.
- Production & Events** Well-versed in the television and documentary production workflow as a result of an MA in Wildlife Filmmaking at UWE, having undertaken each stage of the production process under expert industry guidance whilst making *Bear Hunt*.
Organised and led two group ventures to the Edinburgh Fringe, responsible for a total of 50 volunteer performers over 4 venues and 2 troupes. Also directed, performed, and wrote for these groups, as well as fulfilling solo performances.
Highly experienced events manager through Bristol theatre circuit. Organised MA Wildlife Film screening for 150 people at the Arnolfini in November 2022. Ran a fortnightly comedy night, '*Dynamite!*', with the Bristol Improv Theatre and a one-off Comic Relief fundraiser in March 2019.
Significant experience with talent, including Andy Day, Lizzie Daly, Les Dennis.
- Presenting & Stage** Active Bristol circuit stand-up comic since 2017.
Experienced theatre instructor, particularly in stage comedy. Resident producer, writer, and director with The Room Above Theatre.
Trained with high-profile performers, including Elf Lyons and Zach Zucker.
Directed two Edinburgh Festival Fringe shows, with 4-star reviews, one award.
Provided voice recordings for audiobooks in collaboration with writer and poet Alicia Hayden, including '*Every Dune Is A Mountain*' and '*Rain Before Rainbows*'.
- IT proficiencies** Microsoft Office, Premiere Pro, Photoshop, InDesign, Media Encoder, Audition, Portfolio, QLAB, Canva, SPSS, MATLAB, R-Studio, Avid, Audacity, DaVinci Resolve.
Social Media: Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Hootsuite, LinkedIn.
- UK Driving Licence** Full, current, and clean held from August 2017.